

Navajo Nation with a hearing on the record and a reasonable opportunity to cure the alleged violation."

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOME HEATING OIL PRICES RISING STEADILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, home heating oil prices are rising steadily. An immensely cold winter is predicted to come to us in the next several days. Natural gas is becoming scarce. And out in the West we learn that in California there are warnings out to not light the Christmas trees. The people of California are being asked not to turn on their electricity for Christmas.

The Secretary of Energy just recently tried to alleviate the severe electric shortage and power shortage of California and asked the other western States north of California and their utilities to furnish electricity elements to California.

Senator DOMENICI yesterday dared us to look at what has happened in California without fear and without trepidation. He says there is a wave of rolling brownouts and blackouts coming from California across the country to us, brownouts and blackouts meaning energy shortages and measures that municipalities and homeowners must take to conserve electricity.

This is unacceptable for our country, and it goes to the core of what we have been saying for 8 years now, that we have been traveling along the price of higher fuel and shortages of electricity on the backs of the lack of an energy policy in our country.

That is why in the spring of this year I introduced a bill that would create a commission that would try to put together all the elements, all the resources that we have so that we can declare energy independence within 10 years, so that this commission can look at the ANWR reserves, the Alaska reserves, offshore drilling, natural gas, domestic drilling, coal reserves, solar energy, all the various resources that we have at our command if only we would use them to bring about energy independence in 10 years so no longer would we have to kneel at the throne of OPEC to ask them to produce more oil and to reduce prices. That is unheard of for our modern society.

In that energy policy proposal that I made, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), who is an expert on ANWR and Alaskan oil and energy generally, was the prime cosponsor with me; and he, as chairman of his committee, accorded me a hearing on this matter. He agrees that we ought to put something in place.

I am sure that the President of the United States soon to be sworn in,

George Bush, will attend to this matter and his energy secretary is going to have this as a priority. I know that. But we in Congress have to help them along by establishing these long-term investigations into our resources.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, first let me compliment the gentleman on his outstanding piece of legislation. It does bring to the forefront the lack of an energy policy, and his bill does set up a commission to say, we have to address all forms of energy so we have what I call the wheel of energy to provide the necessity for the center of the wheel to make it work.

As the gentleman mentioned, with coal, 64 percent develops our electrical energy now. We need nuclear. We need gas. We need oil. And, yes, even some hydro, wind power, solar power, all collected in the need for the BTUs.

We have requested, I have requested, an energy policy for the last 20 years and been turned down by the past administration that has not sought to not seek an energy policy.

So I want to compliment the gentleman for bringing this to the forefront. Because gas right now, natural gas, 1 year ago was \$2 and today it is \$9 on the market. So we do need this policy, and I want to compliment the gentleman for his resolution.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

There is another immediate dividend that I think will come from the establishment of the commission and forward movement on establishing an energy policy. I believe that OPEC, seeing what is happening, will automatically start to drop the prices.

Unfortunately for us who want this energy policy, that may give us some sort of relief that we will not have the will to go on with determining our own fate in energy. But I am willing to take that chance. We have got to have an energy policy. We have to stand pat against OPEC and become energy independent as a Nation in 10 years.

HEATING OIL SHORTAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) will continue with this dialogue, one of the things that a lot of people in America do not realize is that the reason we have the prosperity we have today is because we have had cheap energy.

Some people think that is wrong, that we ought to take and conserve all the energy. But if we want to grow, we have a supply and an abundance of energy so we can have the high-tech and the computer industry, by the way, which now uses 27 percent of our electrical power which did not happen 15 years ago. Twenty-seven percent of our

electrical power today is consumed by computers.

For those that are in the computer world, think about it: when power goes down, their computer goes off. That means the airplanes do not fly. That means the stoplights do not work. That means this country comes to a halt.

And so what the gentleman has said, let us get a policy so that the future generations, yes, and the present generations in reality will have a constant supply of reasonably priced energy.

But if the gentleman would like for one moment to address something for me, he mentioned that if we do this the OPEC countries may drop their price. I happen to agree.

What would the gentleman think we should do, though, maybe what the commission can do, to solve that problem.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS).

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to predict exactly what would happen. It seems to me that we ought to start a course on energy independence and go to it without respect to what OPEC does.

All I am saying is we will have an extra dividend to lower prices almost immediately, but then our domestic drillers will have to be given additional incentive to continue producing; and that may require tax incentive-types of legislation that we would have to put into place along with our energy policy.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, again, the commission can probably recognize what we can do to solve that problem. Because I expect what the gentleman said will come true, the first time the OPEC countries sees that we are serious about setting up a supply of energy, they will lower their prices so maybe some of my constituents and his constituents and the people in Florida's House will say, well, there is no need for this, let us not drill an ANWR.

Although, by the way, it only disrupts 12,000 acres out of 19 million acres.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, which reminds me, we are told, and the press knows more about it, that the current President, President Clinton, is contemplating a monument executive order in which he sets aside x amount of land and other resources in Alaska keeping them from development in what we are seeking here.

Can the gentleman tell us about that?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, there is that possibility. I think it would be a terrible disservice to the country.

I would like to remind the gentleman and people that might be listening that this area is a very small area that has a tremendous abundance of oil, probably 39 billion barrels of oil, that can be accessible to the people in the lower 48 so we would not have to buy that